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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 13759 01 OF 02 051742Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10 NSAE-00

PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02

NSC-05 OPIC-06 AF-06 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-01

/094 W
---------- 113632
O R 051728Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4457
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMZASSY BRUSSELS

UEKPNQWXAMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 4248
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMZASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 13759

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PO
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST MEETING ON PORTUGAL

1. THE COMMITTEE OF FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM IN PORTUGAL (TO GIVE ITS FULL TITLE), HELD ITS FIRST MEETING AS SCHEDULED IN LONDON
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PAGE 02 LONDON 13759 01 OF 02 051742Z

TODAY (SEPTEMBER 5) AND ELECTED WILLY BRANDT AS CHAIRMAN.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

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THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE HAROLD WILSON, OLOF PALME, JOOP DEN UYL, BRUNO KREISKY, AND FRANCOIS MITTERRAND. ALL BUT KREISKY WERE PRESENT AT TODAY'S MEETING, AS WAS MARIO SOARES.

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETING, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

1) VISITS TO PORTUGAL BY THE COMMITTEE OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR CONTACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, P.S., AND OTHER POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS.
2) INVITATIONS TO POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS IN PORTUGAL TO VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES IN WESTERN EUROPE.
3) STIMULATION OF SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGNS FOR DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM IN PORTUGAL. IN THIS CONNECTION A SPECIAL PORTUGAL DAY MIGHT BE ORGANIZED IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

4) ACTION IN GOVERNMENTS, PARLIAMENTS AND PUBLIC OPINION FOR TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC AID TO PORTUGAL.

3. IT WAS FURTHER ANNOUNCED THAT THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES HAD BEEN
ESTABLISHED FOR THE COMMITTEE:
1) TO WORK FOR:
A) DEMOCRACY (DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS INCLUDING FREE AND GENERAL ELECTIONS)
B) FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION
C) THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, AND FOR IT TO FUNCTION FREELY
D) THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM
2) TO WORK TO PREVENT AN ISOLATION OF PORTUGAL.

4. THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO PURSUE ITS AIMS IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN EUROPE AND THE WIDER WORLD.

5. IN RESPONSE TO THE ENSUING QUESTIONS, PRIME MINISTER WILSON ESTIMATED THAT THE PCP RECEIVED FOUR MILLION POUNDS STERLING A MONTH FROM FOREIGN SOURCES.

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6. WILLY BRANDT STRESSED THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS TRYING TO ENSURE THE FLOWERING OF DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL; THAT IT WAS NOT INTERFERING IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND WOULD NOT LIKE OTHERS TO EITHER. THE ISSUE, HE SAID, WAS DECISIVE FOR THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY, NOT ONLY IN PORTUGAL, BUT IN ALL OF EUROPE.

7. SOARES SAID THAT PS WAS NOT SEEKING FUNDS FROM OTHER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

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COUNTRIES, AND NOTED THAT EVEN WHEN IT WAS UNDERGROUND,

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PAGE 01 LONDON 13759 02 OF 02 051742Z

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/094 W

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O R 051728Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4458
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 13759

IT TRIED TO BE INDEPENDENT. BUT PORTUGAL NEEDED
EUROPEAN SUPPORT TO MEET ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PARTI-
CULARLY IN VIEW OF THE INFLOW OF REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA.

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AID TO PORTUGAL, HE SAID, SHOULD NOT HAVE POLITICAL
STRINGS ATTACHED.

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8. SOARES ALSO OBSERVED THAT STRONG SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN THE AZORES IS ENCOURAGED BY REACTIONARY FORCES THERE. HE NOTED THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE AZORES HAVE RELATIONS IN AMERICA WHO ARE SCARED BY THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO CONTROL PORTUGAL. PS FEELS IT IS IMPORTANT, HE SAID, TO GUARANTEE SOME ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL AUTONOMY TO AZORES, BUT AZORES MUST REMAIN CONNECTED TO PORTUGAL. HE ANNOUNCED THAT PS WAS BEGINNING A CAMPAIGN AMONG PORTUGUESE-AMERICANS TO SHOW THAT THE QUICKEST WAY TO ESTABLISH COMMUNIST RULE IN PORTUGAL WOULD BE TO PRESS FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR AZORES.

9. AT OPENING OF PRESS CONFERENCE, BEFORE FOREGOING DISCUSSION OF PORTUGAL WAS INITIATED, MITTERRAND ANNOUNCED THAT COMMITTEE AGREED THAT A DEMARCHE SHOULD BE MADE TO MADRID URGING THAT BASQUES CONDEMNED TO DEATH SHOULD NOT BE EXECUTED.

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